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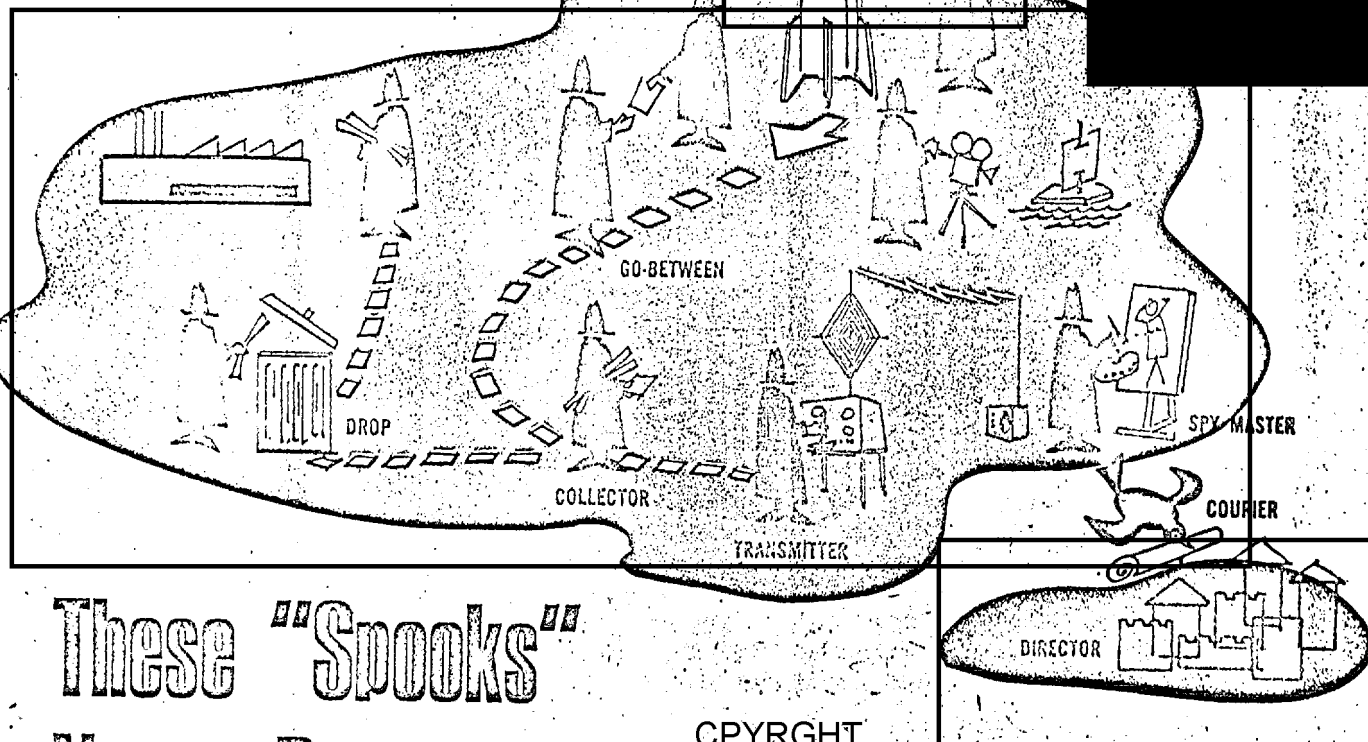
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These "Spooks"

Never Rest

by Robert Willems

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THE huge Russian airliner, on a regular flight to Vienna, makes a routine landing, taxis to the terminal, and discharges its passengers. Then, like some stuffed metal bird, it waits silently while crews scamper in and out, over and under, cleaning, inspecting, and filling tanks with fuel.

Nothing unusual here—or is there? One of the workmen collecting trash pauses, glances around, then stuffs a bent metal coat hanger inside his coveralls. The action is swift, unnoticed. Whistling softly, the collector goes about his work. When his shift ends, he drives away.

Several days later, that same bent coat hanger arrives in the United States and is put through a series of tests. For this is no ordinary coat hanger. It is made from shavings of material used to build a new long-range Russian bomber. Test results make it possible to determine the size of the bomber's wings, its flight range, and its bomb load capacity. The CIA has done it again.

That, at least, is one of the many stories which float around our nation's capital from time to time about America's top super-secret spy organization—the Central Intelligence Agency.

Whether these tales are true or not may never be known. CIA officials almost never admit anything about their work. As a former CIA director, Admiral William F. Raborn, noted: The minute you even hint that you have information the other fellow has been trying to keep secret, he will do everything possible to locate and destroy your source of information or disrupt your method of operation.

Yesterday and Today

True or false, the story of the coat hanger does serve as an example of how the CIA, like the intelligence services of most nations, works. The mission of such agencies is to gather information about other countries, especially those that are actual or possible enemies.

Espionage, or spying, is as old as war itself. The ancient Egyptians developed it into a fine art. And a Chinese official in 400 B.C. gave the first written recommendations for an organized, professional intelligence service.

To open, freedom-loving Americans, however, spying has always seemed a somewhat dirty business. As a result, organized U.S. intelligence networks normally were set up only during wartime as a defense measure. George Washington, for example, spent only \$17,000 on secret intelligence. But after each war ended, the spies went out of business until the next war came along. That was the case until 1947.

Then came our Cold War with Communist nations, which promised to threaten our nation's security for years to come. Realizing the danger of not knowing what the Reds might be planning, Congress established the Central Intelligence Agency. Besides gathering information on its own, this agency was also